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SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 20 August 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith, the text of the joint declaration issued on 16 August 1991 on the occasion of the official visit of His Excellency Mr. I. Safa Giray, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkey, to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 45, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Osman KORUTURK
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

* A/46/150.

ANNEX

JOINT DECLARATION

ISSUED ON 16 AUGUST 1991

His Excellency Mr. I. Safa Giray, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Turkey, paid an official visit to the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, upon the invitation of His Excellency Mr. Rauf R. Denktaş, President of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and His Excellency Mr. Kenan Atakol, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defence.

The parties, having reviewed the recent developments, decided to issue this Joint Declaration which encompasses the following common points of view :

Cyprus is the homeland of two distinct peoples with a separate identity of their own, namely the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots. These two peoples became 31 years ago, the equal founding partners of a bi-communal independent state, with the cooperation and assistance of their respective motherlands, Turkey and Greece.

This partnership, based on a negotiated constitution and safeguarded by international treaties, was not permitted to live and a conflict was created which has been going on for the past 28 years.

At the core of the problem lies the destruction in December 1963 of the partnership which symbolized the bicommunal legitimate order by the Greek Cypriot side through the use of force.

Since then, there is no joint political authority, entitled to speak for both peoples of Cyprus or capable of exercising sovereignty over the entire island. Throughout all these years, the two communities have neither had a joint state, nor a joint parliament, nor a joint government. The two communities are exercising separately for the past 28 years their equal rights emanating from independence and sovereignty through their own representatives under their own political and legal systems.

Against this background, can the Turkish Cypriots and the Greek Cypriots voluntarily establish a new federal partnership based on political equality ? This is the question to which an answer is being sought today.

The Turkish side has made a great and conscious effort in order to bring about an outline for an overall agreement which the two parties would accept based on their free will and explicit consent. As a result of these efforts, there is a possibility now to move towards an agreement which will be based on political equality and will be effectively guaranteed.

All these efforts are taking place within the framework of the UN Secretary-General's mission of good offices. As reaffirmed by Security Council resolution 649, this mission is with the two communities in Cyprus as equal parties.

Turkey has given firm support to the mission of good offices of the Secretary-General and with the aim of facilitating an agreement on the outline for a solution has proposed a quadripartite meeting in which the two parties in Cyprus and Turkey and Greece will participate at a high political level. This proposal has received wide support. It is accepted that such a meeting must be well prepared and take place within the mission of good offices of the Secretary-General. For this purpose, representatives of the Secretary-General are at present continuing their contacts with the parties concerned. Following the completion of these contacts, a direct talk between the leaders of the two communities could enhance the prospects for the success of the current efforts.

The following points are of particular importance for the future of all these endeavours :

- Full respect for the equality of the Turkish Cypriot and the Greek Cypriot sides is essential.

- In a quadripartite meeting which would be convened after adequate preparation under the mission of good offices of the Secretary-General, the Turkish Cypriot and the Greek Cypriot sides will take part with equal status and with equal titles. Accordingly, agreement will be reached in advance on all the arrangements with respect to the meeting in conformity with this status and the four parties will comply with this agreement in every respect.

- The outline for an agreed solution will be discussed and concluded under the aegis of the Secretary-General, between the Turkish Cypriot and the Greek Cypriot sides, together with Turkey and Greece.

- Following the conclusion of an outline and before its presentation to the approval of the Turkish Cypriot and Greek Cypriot communities through separate referenda, a fundamental and positive change should come about in the relations between the two communities. Agreement must be reached on all relevant steps to be taken in this context simultaneously with the agreed outline.

In this spirit, the Turkish side will continue to contribute to the search for a solution.